

Senator Pam Roach

31st DISTRICT REPORT

SPRING 2006



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From the Senator's Desk ...



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the privilege and honor of representing you in Olympia. The 2006 legislative session was very busy and productive for me and for the Legislature as a whole.

The Legislature passed a package of 19 bills that toughen Washington's sex offender laws. These new laws include 25-year minimum sentences for certain crimes, tougher sex offender registration rules, and restrictions on where sex criminals may spend their time after serving their sentences. They also include my bill outlawing bestiality, as well as budget funding for my proposal creating a crime victim information and notification system. While some of these new laws aren't as tough as other legislators and I wanted, they are a positive step in making our communities safer.

I was pleased that five bills that I prime-sponsored were either passed by the Legislature and signed into law or included in the operating budget. In addition, I succeeded in getting funding for several 31st District projects included in the state operating and capital budgets. Citizens from communities in our district worked with me on several of these bills or budget items. Whether it was helping fund local projects, protecting farm animals or protecting swimmers, we accomplished a lot this year by working together!

Please call on me at any time for assistance, or if you have questions or comments about bills passed by the Legislature. It is my pleasure to serve you and our district.

Pam Roach

Sen. Roach was recently named honorary chair of "Autism Speaks," an autism awareness event, by the Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force.

31st District town hall meeting

Wednesday, May 17th
7-9 p.m.

Sumner Senior Center
15506 - 62nd St. Ct. E
Sumner, WA

Sen. Roach proposals included in operating budget:

Sen. Roach was very pleased that she was successful in getting these items included in the 2006 supplemental operating budget passed by the Legislature this year:

✓ Victim notification system

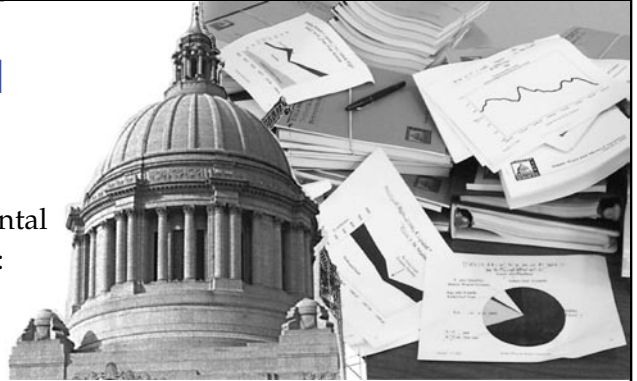
The budget appropriates \$411,000 for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to create a statewide crime victim information and notification system. Sen. Roach sought this system in the form of SSB 6502. While the bill did not pass in the House, funding was included in the budget.

This is a big win for crime victims in Washington. The notification system will put a victim on alert so the offender can't hurt him or her again. Crime victims may subscribe to the information and notification system and indicate how they would like to receive notice – by e-mail, telephone or postal mail. This system must

notify crime victims, who have requested such notification, of the release, transfer, discharge or escape of the person convicted in their case.

✓ Enumclaw logging monument

The budget includes \$150,000 in one-time funding for costs associated with the Logging Legacy Memorial Park project in Enumclaw. The proposed monument will be a bronze, steel and sandstone sculpture showing two oxen pulling a log while being led by a logger. The monument will be located in front of the Enumclaw City Library on Griffin Avenue.



31st District projects funded in capital budget

The 2006 supplemental capital construction budget approved by the Legislature includes funding for these projects that Sen. Roach helped secure:

Buckley/Rainier School wastewater plant

The budget earmarks \$100,000 for the construction of a new wastewater plant to be shared by the city of Buckley and the Rainier School. The amount is far short of the \$3.9 million that Sen. Roach helped include in the original Senate capital budget passed in February. Sen. Roach has been told more money will be available next year. We did everything humanly possible to include full funding for the wastewater project. In fact, Buckley

Mayor Pat Johnson met with Sen. Roach and the governor's chief aide about the need for the new plant. The governor and the Senate supported the \$3.9 million requested. Unfortunately, the House Capital Budget Committee chairman killed our funding request.

Auburn Veterans Memorial Park building

The capital budget provides \$50,000 to help in the replacement of the Auburn Veterans Memorial Park building. The proposed new building will enhance the park's usability. The park building project will include a high-quality kitchen, bathroom and meeting room facility.



Sen. Roach met with (left to right) Jay and Kelly Colbert of Bonney Lake, Gov. Gregoire, and Doni and Marble Jones of Walla Walla just before the governor signed the teak surfing bill into law. The Colberts and Joneses lost their daughters in separate teak surfing accidents on Lake Tapps.

New law to protect swimmers from “teak surfing”

Gov. Gregoire signed into law a bill prime-sponsored by Sen. Roach that bans “teak surfing,” a dangerous yet increasingly popular activity in which someone clings to the back of a moving boat. This new law (SB 6364) was introduced after two swimmers died in separate accidents on Lake Tapps in the past three years from asphyxiation due to proximity to the boat’s exhaust. This new law will save lives through a combination of prevention and education. Teak surfing is dangerous because of the extremely high levels of carbon monoxide from the boat exhaust. A swimmer can die from breathing in boat exhaust and drowning. Asphyxiation can occur in as little as 60 seconds.

This is a public safety issue. This new law will save lives. Other states have enacted similar laws. Under this new law, a fine may be imposed for operating a vessel while another person is teak surfing, platform diving, bodysurfing or holding onto the swim deck on the back of the boat with the boat running.

Animals to be protected by anti-bestiality measure

The Legislature and governor this year approved my bill (SSB 6417) that outlaws bestiality. This proposal makes bestiality a Class C felony, which is punishable by a maximum five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Anyone videotaping such acts also could be convicted under animal-cruelty laws.

Pasado’s Safe Haven, an animal-rights group, approached Sen. Roach about introducing the bill following a widely publicized case in which a man died of injuries last July while having sex with a horse at a farm near Enumclaw. People shouldn’t be allowed to treat animals this way.

Making foreign language instruction a higher priority

Foreign language instruction should be a higher priority in our public schools. That’s why Sen. Roach introduced Senate Bill 6899. It would have required school districts to provide Chinese and Spanish language programs from early elementary grades through 12th grade. All students would be allowed to take such a class.

Although this bill didn’t pass this year, it already has prompted discussion about emphasizing foreign language instruction in our schools. To read Sen. Roach’s recent Puget Sound Business Journal op-ed piece on this issue, go to <http://seattle.bizjournals.com/seattle/stories/2006/04/03/editorial3.html>, or Sen. Roach’s Senate Web site at <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/SRC/Senators/roachnews.htm>.

We're even closer to a White River refuge/state park

Over the past year, Sen. Roach has led a concerted effort aimed at preserving 3,000 acres of land along the White River between Auburn and Buckley. Her goal for this land, owned for decades by Puget Sound Energy, is to turn it into a wildlife refuge and state park. This has been a huge community-based effort. Last September, Sen. Roach hosted a public forum, broadcast by TVW, at Bonney Lake High School about the proposal. The citizens of Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley, Enumclaw, Lake Tapps and Sumner can be proud of their local leaders for their work in support of this project.

Although PSE announced in February that it was selling this land to the Cascade Land Conservancy, the CLC is consulting with Sen. Roach and State Parks official Bill Koss about turning a portion of this land into a state park. CLC has indicated it will meet our community goal of devoting 85 percent of this land for a wildlife refuge. Local elected leaders in Auburn, Bonney Lake, Buckley, Enumclaw, Lake Tapps, South Prairie and Sumner passed resolutions supporting the plan. Our voices have been heard!



Bills for next year: Longer public notice before elections, disclosing tax measures

Many people in and near the 31st District have been alarmed to learn there will be a special election on May 16 to expand the Valley Medical Center's public hospital district. With very short notice, voters must decide whether to approve annexation of the Maple Valley and Black Diamond areas south toward Enumclaw into the center's public hospital district. Sen. Roach believes voters should be given more time to thoroughly debate and learn about a ballot measure issue before having to vote on it. That's why Sen. Roach plans to introduce a bill next year that would require a 120-day public notice period prior to any election or ballot measure. In a separate bill she will offer, a ballot title would be required to list any new taxes that may be imposed by the ballot measure.

"East Pierce County Transportation Summit" meeting in the works

Later this spring, Sen. Roach hopes to co-host a special East Pierce County Transportation Summit meeting with other state senators in our region. At this public forum, we'll discuss our region's transportation situation and what needs to be done to improve it in the future. Look for more information about this meeting in the coming weeks in your local newspaper.